

# **Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine**

## **Site Screen Report**

*This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits, pits and waste piles. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands that may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.*

*The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, and record all immediate site information associated with the mine site. Decisions and recommendations on what additional steps are needed will be provided on a separate document.*

### **Emmett Lee No. 3 AUM Site**

#### **Navajo AUM Western Region**

**Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.599.1111**

**January 2011**

**Part I Site Identification, Location and Status****Site Names and ID numbers as applicable****Mine ID:** 542**Map ID:** W122**CERCLIS:** NNN000909122**Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program:** NA-0198**Local name / Aliases:** Julia Semallie common pit; Emmet Lee #3; E. Lee #3**Chapter and local area:** Coalmine Mesa Chapter**County:** Coconino **State:** Arizona**Lat/Long:** 35.6410809339 N / -111.275635037 W**Nearby road and highway:** Indian Route 6730 **Local Post Office:** Cameron, AZ**Surface Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below****Tribal Trust Land**☒**Public lands**☐**Private**☐**Tribal Fee Land**☐**Bureau of Land Mgmt**☐**Allotment**☐**State**☐**Fee land**☐**Subsurface Mineral Rights:**

No information on subsurface mineral rights ownership was found in the EPA/AUM Database.

**Claim and operator information:**

The mine site surface land status is classified as Tribal Trust Land. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as the Mescalero Mining Company from 1957 to 1958. No additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

**Number of residential structures within 200 feet of mine:** None**Estimated volume of mine waste onsite:** None

## Part II Summary of radiological readings

### Highest gamma radiation measurement:

42,899 counts per minute (cpm)

### Describe any other radiological measurements:

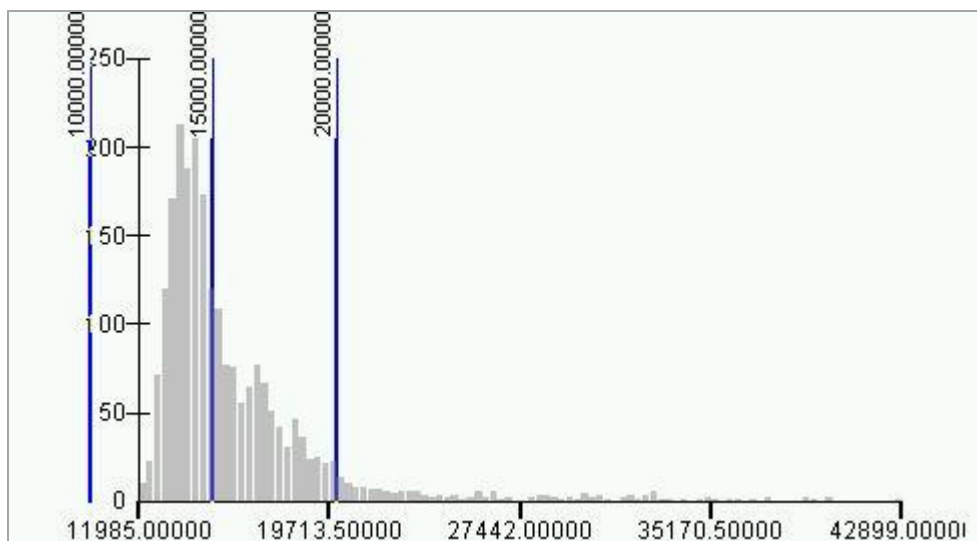
A total of 2,287 gamma radiation measurements were collected from the mine site, ranging from 11,985 cpm to 42,899 cpm. The measurements collected at the reclamation caps were found at a maximum level of approximately 25,000 cpm, and in the eroded area of the eastern reclamation cap at a maximum level of approximately 40,000 cpm. The measurements are represented in Figures 1 and 2.

**Background Readings:** 13,707 cpm

**Background Average:** 13,707 cpm

### Distribution Chart and Statistics:

The following chart and statistics were generated by ESRI ArcGIS 9.3.1, and show the general distribution of the site gamma radiation measurements. The horizontal X axis represents the gamma radiation reading levels in cpm (lowest levels to the left). The vertical Y axis represents the frequency of each gamma radiation level.



|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Count:              | 2287           |
| Minimum:            | 11985.00000    |
| Maximum:            | 42899.00000    |
| Sum:                | 36270937.00000 |
| Mean:               | 15859.61390    |
| Median:             | 14688.00000    |
| Standard Deviation: | 3609.32467     |

### **Part III        Status of Reclamation and Mine Waste**

**The following information was obtained from the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program (NAMLRP) Point Features Database:**

**NAMLRP Status of the mine site: Reclaimed : Yes        Waste Pile onsite : No**

**NAMLRP Project Number: NA-0198**

**NAMLRP Mine features: 1 None**

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**The following information was obtained from field observations collected during the 2010 site screening:**

**Provide description and status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all caps.**

#### **Observed reclamation work and status:**

##### **Adits**

None

##### **Waste Piles**

None

##### **Pits**

None

##### **Shafts**

None

#### **Other Debris and Mine Features**

2 reclamation caps, shared with site #154: western cap 1000' x 300'; eastern cap 400' x 100', both made of grey material

## Part IV

### Site observations and Environs

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** Livestock corral used for cattle, approximately 250' W of site

**Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None

**200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):**

Background levels near corral

**Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:**

**0 to 0.25 miles:** Pond area behind livestock corral, approximately 500' E of the site

**0.25 miles to 4 miles:** Little Colorado River Basin approximately 2 mi W of the site

**Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species, habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.**

None observed

**Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents. Note information on mine ownership, type of mining operation, period of operation, known amount of production, and any other information as provided.**

Emmett Lee No. 3 mine consists of an area of 48,456.94 m<sup>2</sup>. The mine was identified as being operational from 1957 to 1962. Historical documents showed the operator of the mine as the Mescalero Mining Company from 1957 to 1958. While operational, the mine had a total production volume of 229 tons. The Emmett Lee No. 3 and Julia Semallie (154) sites reportedly mined from a single common pit. No other historical information or any additional ownership / lease information was identified in the EPA/AUM database.

## **Part V          Response Action Summary**

### **Summary of Evaluation Factors:**

#### ***Accessibility:***

**Was the mine easily accessible to potential human activity?**

Yes

#### ***Radiological Measurements:***

**Were any gamma radiation measurements collected at the mine greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

Yes

#### ***Waste Piles:***

**Were any unreclaimed waste piles observed at the mine with gamma radiation measurements greater than two times the site-specific background levels?**

No

#### ***Structures:***

**Were any structures observed within 200 feet of the mine?**

No

#### ***Potential Drinking Water Sources:***

**Were any potential drinking water sources observed within 4 miles of the mine?**

Yes

#### ***Reclamation:***

**Was the mine reported to be previously reclaimed, or did the mine appear to be reclaimed?**

Yes (two reclamation caps)

## Part VI      Photos



Photo 1. Emmett Lee No. 3 mine site



Photo 2. Emmett Lee No. 3 mine site, reclamation cap



Photo 3. Emmett Lee No. 3, livestock corral 250' west of site



Photo 4. Emmett Lee No. 3, livestock corral pond 500' west of site



**Part VII      Contacts Reports and Information**Name: Stanley Edison (928) 871-6861Eugene Esplain (928) 871-7331Title or official role (if any) Navajo EPA Superfund ProgramAddress PO Box 2946, Window Rock, AZ 86515Information provided Lead Regulatory Agency

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

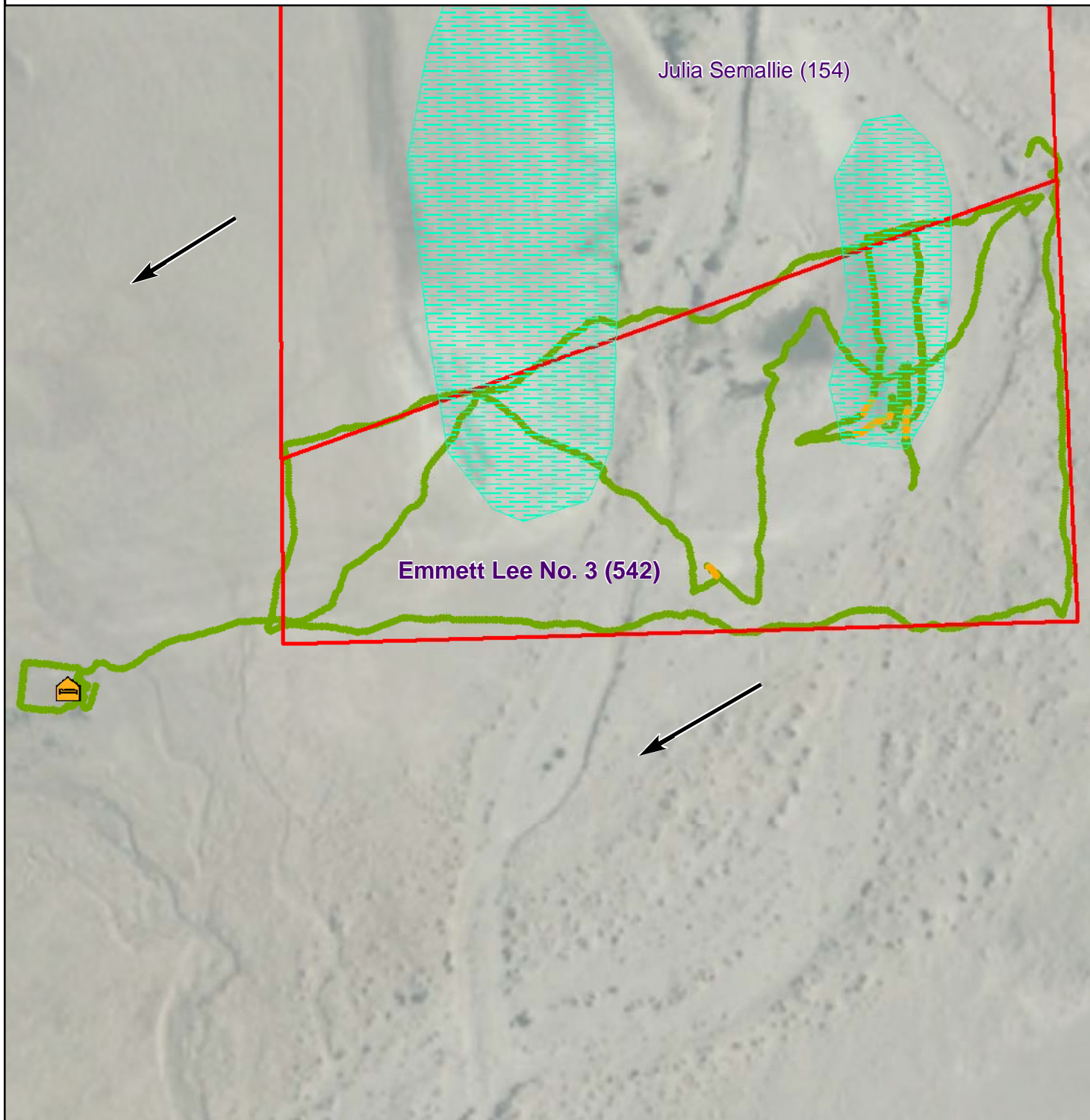
Title or official role (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Information provided \_\_\_\_\_

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**Figure 1 - Gamma Radiation Measurements, Above Two Times Background  
Emmett Lee No. 3 (542)  
Coalmine Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation**



### Legend

#### Gamma Radiation Measurements

- < 2X Background
- > 2X Background

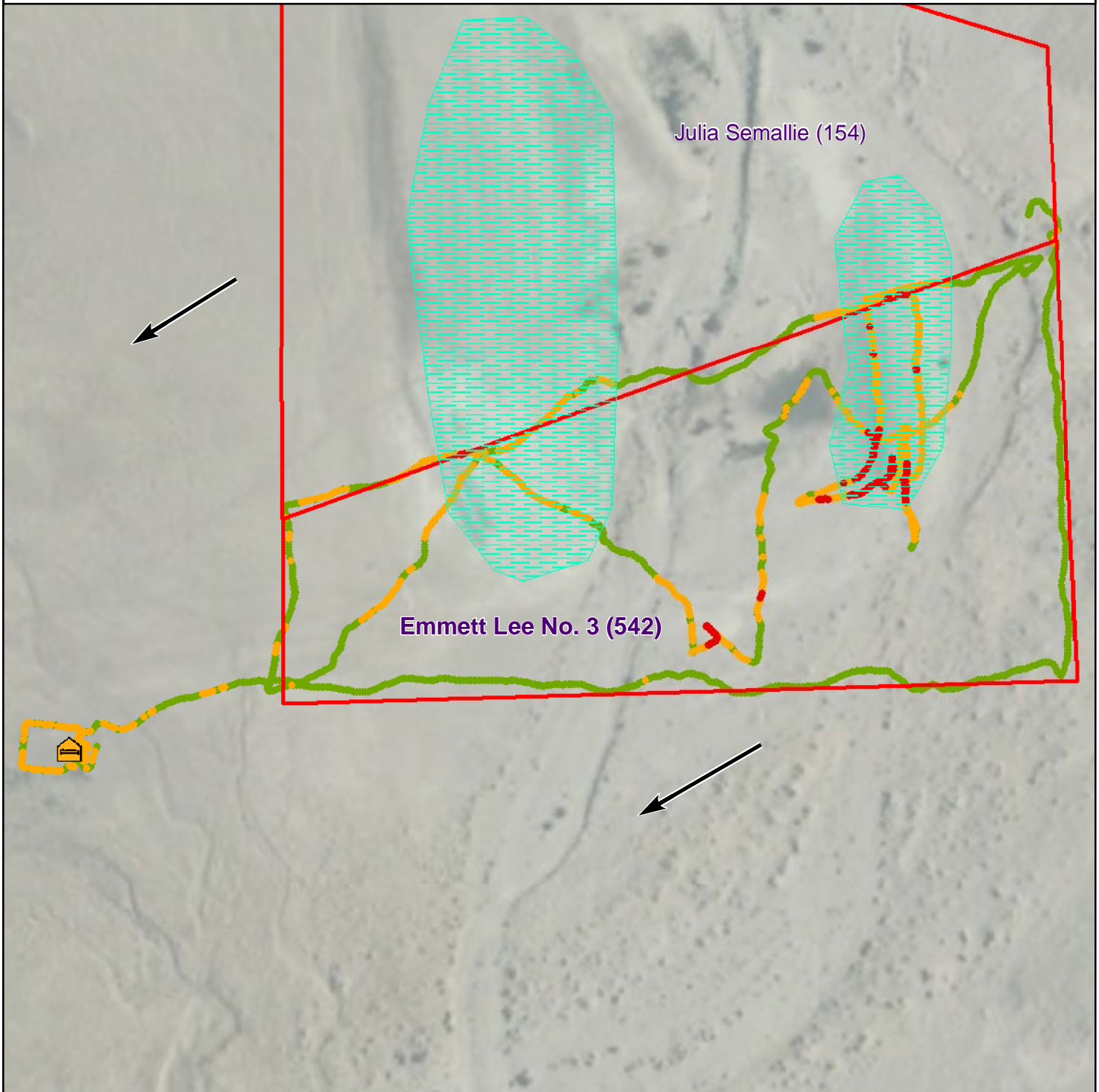
- General Slope Direction
- ▨ Observed Reclamation Area
- ▭ Mine Site Boundary

Gamma survey conducted 11/2010  
Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background 13,707 cpm



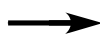
**Figure 2 - Gamma Radiation Measurements**  
**Emmett Lee No. 3 (542)**  
**Coalmine Mesa Chapter, Navajo Nation**



### Legend

#### Gamma Radiation Measurements

- 0 - 10,000
- 10,000 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 20,000
- 20,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 100,000
- > 100,000



General Slope Direction



Observed Reclamation Area



Mine Site Boundary



0 250 Feet



Gamma survey conducted 11/2010  
 Measured as counts per minute (cpm)

Average background 13,707 cpm

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